

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 IO-13 SSM-03 DPW-01 DHA-02

HEW-04 OES-06 AID-05 MED-02 OC-06 CCO-00 OPR-02 SY-05

A-01 /114 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1737

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 092

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

COMPHIBRON FOUR

COM THREE TWO MAU

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7386

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION SEPTEMBER 10

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REF: BEIRUT 7357

1. SUMMARY: HOPES PREVAIL THAT POLITICAL COMPROMISE CAN USHER SARKIS IN PEACEFULLY. SAEB SALAM, PIERRE GEMAYEL, THE GRAND MUFTI AND DAMAL JUNBLATT SAID TO PLAN CAIRO CONSULTATIONS. AL PEACE FORCE FARING POORLY ON CONFRONTATION LINE BUT HASAN SABRI KHOLI EXPECTED SEP 11 TO RESUME AL PEACE INITIATIVES. KADDOUMI AND HAWATMEH SAY THEY FAVOR APPLICATION OF CAIRO ACCORDS. NEW RUMORS THAT ARAFAT MAY HEAD PALESTINIAN DELEGATION TO DAMASCUS. GROUND SITUATION RELATIVELY CALM DESPITE BOMBARDMENTS ON TRADITIONAL FRONTS. RIGHTISTS CLAIM INTENSIFIED PRESSURE ON TRIPOLI AND LEFT CLAIMS INCREASED RIGHTIST/ISRAELI COOPERATION IN THE SOUTH. KATAEB RADIO CONGRATULATES KREMLIN FOR CONDEMNING "EXTREMISTS." ICRC SEEKING VERIFY REPORTS OF CHOLERA IN TRIPOLI. END SUMMARY.

2. POLITICAL FLURRY. RUSH OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY SEEN AS ATTEMPT BY MANY GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS TO PATCH UP SINKING LEBANESE SHIP OF STATE IN TIME TO GIVE SARKIS A CHANCE. L'ORIENT LE JOUR COMMENTS MOST POLITICIANS NOW SEEKING PAPER OVER DIFFERENCES. THERE ARE RUMORS LEFTIST AND MODERATE LEADERS DETERMINED TO RECONCILE SALAM AND KARAME WITH JUNBLATT AS PRELUDE TO SOFTENING OF JUNBLATT'S STANCE TOWARD SYRIA. ASSAFIR SAYS PIERRE GEMAYEL HAS AGAIN CALLED FOR KATAEB/NATIONAL MOVEMENT DIALOGUE ON POLITICAL REFORMS, BUT JUNBLATT SAYS GEMAYEL SHOULD FIRST CALL FOR SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL. SUPREME ISLAMIC COUNCIL MET SEP 9 TO DISCUSS SEP 10 DELEGATION TO DAMASCUS OF CHAFIC WAZZAN, NESSIB BERBIR AND MALEK SALAM. AL MUHARRIR SAYS SYRIAN FOMMIN KHADDAM MAY VISIT BEIRUT, BEFORE SEP 23 IF QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION ON CEASE-FIRE COMMITTEE CAN BE RESOLVED OR AFTERWARDS IF NOT.

3. NOW THE ROAD TO CAIRO. SAEB SALAM DUE SEP 11 IN DAMASCUS BEFORE GOING ON TO RIYAD AND CAIRO. PRESS REPORTS PIERRE GEMAYEL, SHEIKH HASSAN KHALED AND KAMAL JUNBLATT ALSO EXPECTED SOON IN CAIRO FOR CONSULTATIONS. SHIITE IMAM MOUSSA SADR AND JUNBLATT DEPUTY ABBAS KHALAF HAVE ALREADY CONFERRED WITH SADAT. CONFIDENTIAL

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4. ARAB LEAGUE. HASAN SABRI KHOLI EXPECTED IN BEIRUT SEP 11 AND PRESS QUOTES ARAB DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES IN BEIRUT THAT AL SEC GEN MAHMOUD RIAD MAY ALSO ARRIVE SOON AT HEAD OF DELEGATION, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT AND TUNISIA, DEPENDING ON RESULTS OF NEW KHOLI EFFORTS. MEANWHILE, AL TROOPS IN AREA OF CONFRONTATION LINE HAVE BEEN FORCED PULL BACK FROM

SOME AREAS, PARTICULARLY NEAR MUSEUM CHECKPOINT, DUE INTENSE BOMBARDMENTS (OCCUPIED FRENCH RESIDENCE TEMPORARILY, BEFORE FRENCH MILATT PERSUADED THEM TO LEAVE) ALTHOUGH AL SPOKESMAN DENIES THIS IS RETREAT. SEP 9 SAW GENERAL GHONEIM IN SERIES OF MEETINGS IN EFFORT RELIEVE PRESSURE ON HIS TROOPS.

5. PALESTINIANS. PALESTINIAN ENVOYS ABU MAZEN AND ABU MAHER MET SEP 9 WITH FONMIN KHADDAM IN DAMASCUS. PRESS CLAIMS PLO POLITICAL BUREAU HEAD FAROUK KADDOUMI EXPECTED SOON IN DAMASCUS AT HEAD OF PALESTINIAN DELEGATION TO PREPARE FOR ARAFAT VISIT THERE BEFORE SEP 23. KHADDOUMI HAS SENT LETTER TO UN SEC GEN WALDHEIM SAYING LEBANESE CRISIS DUE TO "ISRAELI DESIGNS" AND "THE PLAY OF PURELY INTERNAL LEBANESE FORCES." KHADDOUMI SAYS HE FAVORS APPLICATION CAIRO ACCORDS AND CLAIMS PALESTINIANS HAVE ARMED THEMSELVES ONLY FOR DEFENSE AGAINST ISRAEL. LETTER FOLLOWS CHAMOUN MESSAGE TO WALDHEIM ACCUSING PALESTINIANS OF ATTACK ON SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON. PDFLP LEADER NAYEF HAWATMEH ALSO SAYS HE FAVORS APPLICATION OF CAIRO ACCORDS AND OPPOSES THOSE WHO CALL CAIRO ACCORDS A DEAD LETTER. HE OPPOSES IDEA OF SYRIAN-JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE CONFEDERATION AS IT WOULD "USURP NATIONAL AND DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS."

6. GROUND SITUATION: BEIRUT AND CENTER. BEIRUT RELATIVELY CALM SEP 9 DESPITE CONTINUING CLASHES AND BOMBARDMENTS ALONG CONFRONTATION LINE WHICH HAVE VIRTUALLY STOPPED TRAFFIC BETWEEN CITY'S TWO ZONES. FATAH SECURITY CHIEF ABU HASSAN AND KATAEB REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH ABU CHARAF HAVE DISCUSSED OPINING EAST/WEST CROSSPOINT IN SEAFRONT AREA, BUT CONFIDENTIAL

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INSECURITY AND DAMAGE IN AREA MAKE PROSPECT IMPROBABLE. IN SUBURBS, CHIYAH/AIN EL-RUMMANEH VERY ACTIVE DUE BOMBARDMENTS AND INFILTRATION ATTEMPTS. MODERATE TO HEAVY BOMBARDMENTS AT HADETH/LAILAKI, ALEY/KAHALE, BAABDATE/SALIMA AND SANNINE/AINTOURA. ASSAFIR REPORTS MORE ARRESTS BY SYRIANS AND POPULAR OPPOSITION TO SYRIAN PRESENCE IN THE BEEKAA. CONFUSION CONTINUES ON SYRIAN BORDER SITUATION. AN NAHAR SAYS ENTRY PERMITS TO SYRIA FORMERLY GIVEN BY SYRIAN FORCES IN BEKAA NOW PROVIDED BY LEBANESE PUBLIC SECURITY POSTS. AN NAHAR SAYS RAYAK MILITARY AIRFIELD IN BEKAA EXPECTED TO OPEN TO CIVILIAN AVIATION IN MID-SEPTEMBER.

7. IN THE NORTH. RIGHTISTS CLAIM INTENSIFIED

PRESSURE ON TRIPOLI, BUT WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF GROUND  
MOVEMENT EXCEPT LIMITED RIGHTIST ADVANCE NEAR CARMELITE  
MISSION IN ALMA AREA. SYRIANS AGAIN SHELL NAHR  
EL-BARED PALESTINIAN CAMP.

8. IN THE SOUTH. MUTUAL BOMBARDMENTS CONTINUE IN  
JEZZINE AREA. AL KIFAH AL ARABI GIVES ACCOUNT OF  
ISRAELI ACTIVITY ON SOUTHERN BORDER, INCLUDING ISRAELI/  
RIGHTIST CHECKPOINTS, ROAD BUILDING BETWEEN RMAYSH AND  
DOVIV AND CONNECTION OF LEBANESE VILLAGES TO ISRAELI  
POWER AND TELEPHONE LINES. NEWSPAPER QUOTES PFLP-GC  
SPOKESMAN THAT BECHIR GEMAYEL VISITED SOUTH LEBANON  
SEP 5, MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE BORDER  
VILLAGES OF RMAYSH, AIN IBEL AND DEBEL AND THEN WITH  
ISRAELI PM RABIN. PAPER CLAIMED RIGHTISTS FIGHTERS  
BEING TRAINED IN ISRAEL. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION.

9. KATAEB/KREMLIN. VOICE OF LEBANON (BATAEB)  
CONGRATULATES MOSCOW ON ITS NEW FLEXIBILITY IN  
CONDEMNING "EXTREMISTS OF ALL SIDES" IN RECENT  
PRAVDA ARTICLE. SAYS KREMLIN RETHINKING ITS FORMER  
UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT OF NATIONAL MOVEMENT, AND  
RECALL OF AMBASSADOR SOLDATOV CONSTITUTES "A  
CONDEMNATION OF THE POLICY OF MAINTAINING RELATIONS  
ONLY WITH THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND PALESTINIANS."  
RADIO SAYS IT BELIEVES SOLDATOV WILL BE REPLACED BY  
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MORE MODERATE DIPLOMAT, PERHAPS FORMER SOVIET  
AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON SARVAR AZIMOV.

10. CHOLERA. ICRC SAYS IT HAS NO PROOF OF CHOLERA  
IN TRIPOLI, THOUGH IT KNOWS OF SEVERAL CASES GRAVE  
INTESTINAL INFECTION RESULTING IN ONE DEATH. ICRC  
INVESTIGATOR ENROUTE TO TRIPOLI AND DEFINITIVE REPORT  
EXPECTED WITHIN TWO DAYS.  
LANE

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## Message Attributes

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